United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1267
11 November 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Leaders of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cyprus adjourn recent round of talks; agree to continue negotiations on Set of Ideas in early March 1993; Leader of Turkish Cypriot community, Rauf Denktash, offers assessment of talks.

+ Security Council yesterday agreed to increase strength of United Nations Protection Force by 75 military observers to implement "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Three United Nations senior officials meet with leader of UNITA, Jonas Savimbi, for exchange of views on how to re-launch peace process in Angola.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia request that issue of refugees and displaced people in former Yugoslavia be taken up in General Assembly's plenary session, in addition to it being considered in the Third Committee.

+ Morocco cites violations of humanitarian law in Western Sahara.

+ Goodwill Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to Moscow, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan holds consultations with various parties to conflict; Head of Goodwill Mission to Solomon Islands meets with relevant Government officials.

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The leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cyprus, adjourning their talks today, have agreed to continue negotiations aimed at concluding the work on the Set of Ideas in early March 1993. The talks, which were initiated by the Secretary-General on 18 June, resumed most recently at Headquarters on 28 October.

According to a statement by the Secretary-General's Spokesman, the most recent meetings focused primarily on the issues of displaced persons, constitutional aspects of the Federation and territorial adjustments.

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The Secretary-General is due to report shortly to the Security Council on the latest discussions.

Following the suspension of the talks, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, H. E. Rauf Denktash, referred the press at Headquarters today to the position paper issued by the Secretariat showing that his delegation had accepted 91 out of the 100 paragraphs put forward in the Set of Ideas for an overall framework agreement. He denied the "widespread propaganda" that the talks were not proceeding in the right direction because the Turkish Cypriot side had not accepted all the elements contained in the Set of Ideas.

He indicated that the Turkish Cypriots had believed that there was agreement on all but a few remaining subjects and that it would be possible "to concentrate on those important issues". But now, due to the position taken by the Greek Cypriots, it appeared that everything remained open to discussion, he indicated.

He said, however, that the talks had been "most fruitful", in the sense that this was the first time the Turkish Cypriot side had been able "to see the Greek Cypriot position, nebulous as it is, on paper". He called his contact with Mr. Vassiliou "cordial" and said that their discussions represented "a good beginning".

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The Security Council last night unanimously approved an increase in the strength of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) by 75 military observers to enable the Force to implement the ban on military flights in the airspace of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council had voted on 9 October to ban all such flights, except for United Nations humanitarian flights and others in support of United Nations operation.

Under the resolution adopted last night, the Council reiterated its determination to consider urgently, in the case of violations, further measures necessary to enforce the ban. It also called on all parties and others concerned, including all Governments operating aircraft in the area, to cooperate fully with UNPROFOR.

The Council welcomed the current advance deployment of military observers of UNPROFOR and the European Community Monitoring Mission at airfields in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The representative of China, while voting in favour of the resolution, said he did not support the use of force in implementing the ban on military flights.

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Three United Nations senior officials meet yesterday with the leader of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi,

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for an exchange of views on the present critical situation in Angola, a United Nations spokesman said today.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, and the Chief Military Observer of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), flew to central Angola yesterday to meet with Mr. Savimbi for a discussion on how to relaunch the peace process and what action the United Nations should take to that end.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia have jointly asked that the General Assembly consider in plenary "as soon as practicable" the issue of refugees and displaced persons in former Yugoslavia, in order to alleviate "the extreme suffering" of civilians in that region. The request, made in a letter dated 9 November and signed by the Permanent Representatives of the two countries to the United Nations, followed the Assembly's decision to allocate that agenda item for discussion to the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

The two Ambassadors, citing the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said their request was based on the global nature of the problem of refugees and displaced persons. They pointed out that 400,000 people in Bosnia and Herzegovina were in imminent danger of starvation, freezing and death; approximately 750,000 refugees and displaced persons in Croatia needed urgent help and assistance; over 3 million people had been displaced, and destruction had occured on a "massive scale".

The two countries said their request did not seek the removal of the issue in its entirety from the proceedings of the Third Committee; on the contrary, the Committee should "remain seized" of that matter. But since this was "the most difficult humanitarian problem in Europe since the end of the Second World War", the part of the debate relating to former Yugoslavia should be reallocated to the plenary.

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Citing violations of international humanitarian law in Western Sahara, Ibrahim Hakim, Ambassador-at-large of Morocco, told a press conference at Headquarters today that he had met with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, in order to hand over to her a document on the mistreatment of refugees in the Territory and the "misuse" of humanitarian aid to refugee camps.

Mr. Hakim indicated that he had delivered a copy of the document to the President of the Security Council, as well as to the Secretary-General whom he had met personally. He expressed the hope that the questions raised in the document would be answered in the next few days.

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A United Nations official announced today that the Goodwill Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to Moscow, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan at the beginning of the month had held a series of consultations with various parties to the conflict as well as with officials from regional governments. The mission is headed by Raymond Sommereyns, Director in the Department of Political affairs.

In another announcement today, the official said that the Head of the Goodwill Mission to the Solomon Islands, Mian Qadrud-Din, had completed his visit to that country yesterday, after having met with all the relevant Government officials. Mr Qadrud-Din was scheduled to return to Tokyo over the weekend and to inform the Secretary-General about his visit shortly thereafter.

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1268
12 November 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ One Nepalese UNIFIL soldier killed and three injured in clash between armed elements and United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon south of Kafra.

+ President George Vassiliou, leader of Greek Cypriot community, gives his view at Headquarters of recently-adjourned face-to-face talks on future of Cyprus.

+ Iraq begins large-scale destruction of its stocks of mustard agent, manufactured for chemical weapons, under supervision of United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament.

+ Slovenia says it has documentation of more than 80 cases of violations of humanitarian law in territory of former Yugoslavia.

+ Relationship between arms control and peace-keeping discussed in First Committee; delegates comment on Secretary-General's report "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in post-cold-war era".

+ Growing number of fatalities and injuries among United Nations peace-keeping personnel make it incumbent upon Organization to seek their maximum protection, Special Political Committee is told.

+ Switzerland offers to provide temporary facilities for ex-detainees from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

+ Iraq calls for return of $1 million, frozen in its Mission's New York bank accounts.

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A United Nations spokesman announced today that one Nepalese soldier had been killed and three others injured during a clash in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) area, between armed elements and UNIFIL just south of the village of Kafra, in the Nepalese battalion sector.

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The incident occurred when the Nepalese battalion returned fire in self-defence at local armed elements who had attacked two positions of the Nepalese battalion with small arms fire. The fire lessened after 30 minutes, but continued sporadically during the day. The UNIFIL authorities were taking every step possible to contain the incident, the spokesman said.

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President George Vassiliou, leader of the Greek Cypriot community, today described the recently-adjourned face-to-face talks on the future of Cyprus as "useful". Addressing the press at Headquarters, he said the talks had served to help clarify beyond any doubt what the positions of the two sides were. Though no progress had been made because, he said, of the Turkish side's rejection of the principles of the Set of Ideas for an overall framework agreement and of the map allocating land transfers between the two communities, they had been able to exchange views on the basic concepts.

As a result of the work done during these last weeks, he said, the next round of talks should be able to progress more productively.

Settlement of the Cyprus problem -- which was long overdue -- would not only be to the benefit of Turkish and Greek Cypriots alike, he said, but would also act as an example for similar problems around the world.

Following the adjournment of the talks yesterday, it was announced that the two sides had agreed that the process aimed at concluding work on the Set of Ideas would be continued in early March 1993. They would take into account the resolution to be adopted by the Security Council after it considers the Secretary-General's report on this latest round of meetings.

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Iraq began today, under the supervision of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, the large-scale destruction of its stocks of mustard agent, manufactured for chemical weapons.

According to a communiqué issued by the Commission today, the incinerator at the Muthanna State Establishment, which operates at temperatures of 1100 degrees centigrade to destroy chemical warfare agents and precursors, was built by Iraq to a design approved by a panel of international experts set up by the Special Commission.

The incinerator is expected to be able to destroy on average 3 to 4 tonnes of agent a day. Destruction activities are expected to last about one year.

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Slovenia says it can provide documented data and information about more than 80 cases with identified and unidentified perpetrators who have committed violations of humanitarian law in the territory of former Yugoslavia.

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According to a letter to the Secretary-General from the Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations, dated 5 November, the information concern killings and injuries of civilians, indiscriminate use of weapons, bombing, shooting and destroying civilian targets and private property, looting, etc. "during the 10-day aggression against Slovenia ... committed by the members of the Yugoslav Army".

The letter said Slovenia had given shelter to more than 70,000 temporary refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, among whom were many victims or eyewitnesses of tortures, rapes and other forms of violent, inhuman and humiliating treatment. Numerous temporary refugees eyewitnessed mass and individual killings and other violations of humanitarian law.

The letter said Slovenia would continue to gather information and would cooperate with the Commission of Experts set up by the Security Council to investigate violations against humanitarian law in former Yugoslavia. Document S/247 89

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The changing role of the triad of United Nations bodies dealing with disarmament -- the First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission -- was discussed yesterday by the First Committee (Political and Security), as it completed its discussion of the Secretary-General's report entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era".

The increasing role of the Security Council and of the Secretary-General himself in disarmament and "peace enforcement" activities was also highlighted. In his address to the Committee, Vladimir Petrovsky, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, said the Committee should concentrate on the substance of disarmament and international security issues, rather than on the form, and go ahead boldly in an unorthodox and innovative manner.

Five draft resolutions were introduced during the afternoon session yesterday, including one which would have the General Assembly express grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States. The Assembly would also express concern at the recently reported effort to dump radiological and toxic wastes in Somalia.

A second draft resolution introduced by Kenya would have the Assembly strongly renew its call to all States to respect the continent of Africa and its surrounding areas as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Stressing that the full disclosure of South Africa's nuclear programme was essential to the peace and security of the region and the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, the Assembly would call upon that country to continue to comply with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards agreement in full.

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The growing number of fatalities and injuries among peace-keeping and other personnel from hostile actions in areas of deployment made it incumbent upon the Organization to seek ways of ensuring the maximum protection of United Nations peace-keepers, the representative of Ukraine told the Special Political Committee this morning. He said the 45-Power draft resolution he was introducing had been prompted by the truly alarming situation regarding their safety.

The draft strongly demanded, he continued, that host countries and all parties to a conflict take all measures possible to ensure the safety of peace-keeping and other United Nations personnel. The General Assembly should urge the Secretary-General to conclude a status of forces agreement with the parties concerned, emphasizing their obligations to respect the international status of United Nations operations.

In certain cases, according to the draft, the Security Council might make it clear that it would be prepared to take "further steps in accordance with the Charter", should the purpose of a peace-keeping operation be systematically frustrated by provocative attacks against United Nations personnel.

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Switzerland has announced that it would provide for a three-month transit period for 1.500 ex-detainees from Bosnia-Herzegovina, while longer-term safe haven could be arranged in other countries.

In a press release issued today at Headquarters, the Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, M. Douglas Stafford, welcomed the Swiss decision which, he said, would considerably speed up the urgent evacuation of detainees from camps. He warned, however, that thousands of prisoners continued to languish in detention camp because they had no place to go.

As of Thursday, some 16 nations had offered temporary refuge for 2,795 of the estimated 7,000 to 10,000 detainees in Bosnia-Herzegovina. On 1 October, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) evacuated the first of the detainees -- 1,560 men who were taken from a detention camp in northern Bosnia to a UNHCR-assisted transit center in Croatia. About 1,000 of this initial group remained there, awaiting transport to countries that have already offered them refuge.

In related news today, the Security Council held consultations this afternoon during which it received a briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, on the refugee situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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The representative of Iraq this morning called for the return of some $1 million, with interest, which had been frozen in his mission's accounts in the Bank of New York, following the Security Council's imposition of sanctions. He spoke in the Sixth Committee (Legal), which is currently considering the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

Safa Shihab Ahmed of Iraq said the funds were needed for the living expenses of the mission personnel and constituted no threat to the host country or its State Department. Attorneys for the Iraqi Mission had sought to resolve the matter with the United States Treasury, to no avail, he continued. The Iraqi Mission had contacted the Secretary-General directly, but could not resolve the situation.

In related news, the Security Council held consultations this afternoon on Iraq.

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Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1269
13 November 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, tell Security Council that sanctions regime against that country is being evaded and violated; urge that arms embargo be maintained and enforced; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, announces convening of new high-level meeting to review humanitarian situation in early December; Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, says assistance to human rights victims should go hand in hand with punishing those guilty of violations; during debate, a number of delegates deplore the difficult situation in the former Yugoslavia; Council to resume consideration of item on Monday, 16 November.

+ Possibility of "eruption of a major conflict is high" in Georgia unless situation is reversed, says Secretary-General in letter to President of Security Council.

+ Mochtar Kusuma-Atmadja resigns as Chairman of Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission; Secretary-General appoints Nicolas Valticos of Greece as his successor, effective 20 November.

+ World Food Programme announces launch of four-month winter emergency operation to feed 1 million people, mainly in northern Kurdish areas of Iraq; appeals urgently for further aid pledges from donor community.

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Cyrus Vance, one of the two Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, told the Security Council today that the sanctions regime established by the Council was being evaded and violated, and throughout the former Yugoslavia the humanitarian crisis deepened. It was common knowledge that transit documents were being misused and that embargoed oil was getting through in larger and larger quantities. With regard to the arms embargo, he said, it was his judgement that it should be maintained and enforced. A lifting of the arms embargo - as some had suggested -- would not contribute to a durable peace and would be counter-productive.

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For information media—not an official record

Given the "complex and testing situation" in that region, he stressed, it would require the strongest resolve by the international community to bring about a durable cessation of hostilities. He emphasized that the international community could not accept a non-compliance with the guidelines outlined by the Security Council and the General Assembly to solve the problems in the region.

Mr. Vance spoke this morning as the first of a number of speakers to address a formal meeting of the Council concerning the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He said the situation in former Yugoslavia continued to threaten international peace and security.

Mr. Vance also urged all parties in former Yugoslavia to cooperate with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) as it was carrying out its vital humanitarian and peace-keeping missions. Obstruction, harassment, and attacks on peace-keeping forces could not be tolerated by the world community, he said. With regard to the unconditional cease-fire recently declared by the military commanders of the three warring parties in Sarajevo, he said it was still too early to draw any conclusions, but all three parties were expected to live up to their commitments.

In his statement to the Council, Lord Owen, the other Co-Chairman of the Conference, pointed out that the joint effort by the European Community and the United Nations had brought the opposing parties in the former Yugoslavia together in a mostly constructive dialogue in two main areas -- the politicians over the future constitution and the military over a cessation of hostilities. The Conference's constitutional proposals made clear that there would not be a crude division of Bosnia and Herzegovina into three separate provinces, because such an arrangement would endorse ethnic cleansing.

Sanctions, he noted, often hit the innocent harder that the guilty, but they were the only peaceful weapon the world had. It was vital, he stressed, that the Council's resolution block the gaping holes in the current oil embargo. A vital aspect of the constitutional proposals was the powerful interlocking mechanisms for the reversal of ethnic cleansing. People who wished to return to their homes or land would be able to call on an Ombudsman for help in negotiating with local authorities and, need be, going to court. That process would take a decade or more to complete, but documents signed under duress taking away people's homes and land would become null and void, he stressed.

Turning to the military aspect of the crisis, Lors Owen indicated that it was not clear whether the latest cease-fire would hold, but the scale of the humanitarian crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina would be considerably eased if there was a cessation of hostilities. However, he noted, a cease-fire had political dangers. The Bosnian Serb frontline, established by force, risked becoming frozen de facto political boundaries. The present Bosnian Serb frontline had to be rolled back, he said, and the international community must demilitarize Sarajevo and free blockaded towns.

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It was also vital not to disavow the use of external force, he continued, noting that the no-fly agreement would not have been negotiated without United States President Bush being ready to enforce it. Lord Owen expressed the conviction that the international community should continue to apply steady, persistent pressure on the leaders of the former Yugoslavia in order to achieve progress in the peaceful resolution of the crisis in the area.

Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), announced this morning that her Agency intended to convene another high-level meeting in early December to review the humanitarian situation in former Yugoslavia, in all its aspects. The first meeting on a comprehensive humanitarian response to the crisis in the region was launched by the UNHCR at the end of July.

Mrs. Ogata recalled that the priorities of UNHCR were assistance for survival and admission to safety of those who were compelled to flee from war and persecution. She stressed the importance of the full deployment of the additional UNPROFOR troops to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance to civilian populations, noting that the security conditions for the indispensable road convoys to Sarajevo - and to many other areas - remained fragile.

Condemning displacement of populations, she said ethnic cleansing was going on with groups of peoples fleeing daily in their desperate search for safety in central Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, she added, many refugees had difficulties in being admitted to Croatia, which already was carrying a tremendous refugee burden. She expressed the hope that refugees and displaced persons on all sides would eventually be allowed to return to their homes. The return of refugees is clearly both a humanitarian and a political endeavour, she said.

Mrs. Ogata also voiced her concern about the consequences of the sanctions imposed on former Yugoslavia, saying they should not "become a lethal weapon against the weak". She recalled that the Humanitarian Assistance Project in Serbia and Montenegro was estimated at some 97.3 million dollars, expressing her gratitude to the Sanctions Committee for helping UNHCR deliver assistance to over half a million refugees and displaced persons.

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of the Commission on Human Rights, pointed out that "ethnic cleansing" had been first pursued by de facto the Serbian authorities in the territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These practices could not even be prevented by the presence of UNPROFOR forces in the territory of Croatia under the control of Serbian troops. He noted that the Serbian population in the areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina was also a victim of discrimination and human rights' abuse. Although these acts should be condemned in their own right, they were not an element of systematic policy.

In light of the current situation, three kinds of activities had to be undertaken immediately, from the human rights point of view, Mr. Mazowiecki said: the closing of detention camps; the establishment of security zones for

humanitarian purposes in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and the establishment of corridors for humanitarian supplies, particularly to the cities and areas under siege.

Drawing attention to the systematic human rights violations of the Albanian populations, he noted that discrimination and oppression were also affecting other ethnic minorities living in the former Yugoslavia, such as Hungarians, Croat, Slovak and Ukrainian populations in Vojvodina, as well as Muslims in Sandjak. Asssistance to the victims of such acts had to go hand in hand with the will to punish those guilty, he said, in particular the perpetrators of war crimes.

The Council continued the meeting this afternoon, hearing statements from a number of delegates deploring the situation in former Yugoslavia. The Council is scheduled to resume consideration of this item on Monday, 16 November.

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The situation in Georgia has dramatically worsened, increasing the possibility of the eruption of a major conflict in that region unless confidence in the peace-building process of the 3 September agreement is rebuilt. That assessment was offered by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, dated 10 November.

In his letter, the Secretary-General recommended to the Security Council that it call on the parties in Georgia to meet at the highest level without precondition to establish an effective cease-fire and to resume the peace process in line with the 3 September agreement. He proposed that the United Nations participate as an observer at such a meeting and as a facilitator to assist the parties in finalizing a peace settlement. Such a meeting, the Secretary-General wrote, could also consider the possible deployment of United Nations observers to monitor the implementation of the agreement.

In the meantime, he went on, two United Nations personnel had remained in Georgia to provide an initial United Nations presence. In addition, an integrated United Nations Interim Office would be opened this month at Tbilisi.

The letter reported that the recent developments appeared to have adversely affected the relations between Georgia and the Russian Federation and had hampered the efforts of President Boris Yeltsin to promote a solution. The Secretary-General stressed the urgency of a summit meeting among the parties involved to put the agreement of 3 September back on track.

A United Nations mission, headed by Antoine Blanc, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, visited Georgia from 13 to 16 October. It was the second visit of a United Nations mission to the country this fall.

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The resignation for personal reasons of Mr. Mochtar Kusuma-Atmadja as Chairman of the Iraq-Kowait Boundary Demarcation Commission was accepted "reluctantly and with deep regret" by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who appointed as his successor Mr. Nicolas Valticos, acccording to a press release issued today at Headquarters.

Mr. Valticos, a Greek national, has served previously as member and President of various international Tribunals, including the International Court of Justice as an ad hoc Judge and Commission of Inquiry. He is presently Judge at the European Court of Human Rights and First Vice-President of the Institute of International Law.

The Secretary-General expressed to Mr. Mochtar appreciation for his valuable contribution to the work of the Commission, and pointed out that, thanks to his leadership and experience, the Commission had succeeded in finalizing its work on the land boundary between Iraq and Koweit, thus completing the major portion of its task as foreseen by Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

Mr. Mochar, a national of Indonesia, was elected to the International Law Commission beginning his term of membership from 1 January, 1992. His resignation takes effect on 20 November.

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With current relief food stocks in Iraq running out, the World Food Programme (WFP) today announced that it will launch a four-month winter emergency operation to assist 1.2 million people throughout the country. With 49,000 tons of additional commodities needed, WFP appealed to the donor community to "urgently make further food aid pledges as well as ensure speedy delivery of the food to the affected populations".

According to WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini, the advent of the winter season will put at risk more than a million destitute and vulnerable people, mainly mothers and children. In the northern Kurdish areas, relief supplies of food and fuel are expected to run out by the end of November. In the central and southern governorates there is enough food to last into December.

The Government of Iraq and the United Nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 22 October, covering humanitarian relief operations throughout the country until the end of March 1993. The WFP, despite the months of delay in renewing the Memorandum, has delivered a total of 150,000 tonnes of aid commodities to various groups in Iraq since the end of the Gulf war in early 1992.

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Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1270
16 November 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ After two days of debate on situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Security Council expected to take action on tightening of mandatory sanctions on Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); would ask Secretary-General to look into possibility of deploying observers on borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to monitor implementation of sanctions.

+ United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa expresses dismay at revelations concerning activities of military intelligence; reiterates support for Goldstone Commission's investigation of violence in that country.

+ Secretary-General sends message of hope and reassurance to Somali people saying mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia "remains unchanged".

+ International community is looking to United Nations in new and ever more complex ways, particularly with regard to conflict resolution, peace-keeping and peacemaking endeavours, Eugeniusz Wyzner, Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, tells Special Political Committee.

+ Last week's cease-fire in Sarajevo marred by isolated incidents that endanger whole cease-fire agreement, Spokesman for Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference says.

+ President of Georgia says no concrete steps have been taken to solve conflict in his country; confrontation is "intensifying and number of casualties grows daily".

+ Secretary-General tells Security Council President of agreement on adjusted implementation of peace accords in El Salvador; calls on all parties to act with particular caution during upcoming "especially delicate phase".

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For information media—not an official record

+ United Nations owed some $576 million by Member States in total outstanding contributions to regular budget, as of 31 October 1992.

+ Recent update from United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia says 14 political parties have provisionally registered for upcoming elections next spring.

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After two days of consideration of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Security Council, was expected to take action on the tightening of its mandatory sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) under resolution 713 (1991) and 757 (1992). The Council was to take action on the draft resolution after having heard statements by a large number of speakers during meetings today and last Friday, 13 November.

Deeply concerned about reports of continuing violations of its sanctions, the Council would decide to prohibit transshipment through the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of crude oil, petroleum products, coal, energy-related equipment, iron, steel, other metals, chemicals, rubber tyres, vehicles, aircraft and motors of all types, unless such transshipment is specifically authorized on a case-by-case basis. It would further decide that "any vessel in which a majority or controlling interest is held by a person or undertaking in or operating from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" should be considered a vessel of the Federal Republic of Yogoslavia, "regardless of the flag under which it sails". The Council would also call upon States "to halt all inward or outward maritime shipping in order to inspect and verify their cargoes and destinations", and it would reaffirm the responsibility of riparian States to ensure that shipping on the Danube is in accordance with its resolutions.

Under today's resolution, the Council would ask the Secretary-General to present to it, as soon as possible, his recommendations concerning the deployment of observers on the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to facilitate the implementation of the above prohibitions.

With regard to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the region, the Council would invite the Secretary-General, in consultations with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian agencies, to study the possibility of the promotion of safe areas for humanitarian purposes.

Also under today's decision, the Council would call upon the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to consider the draft outline constitution as a basis for negotiating a political settlement of the conflict and to continue negotiations for constitutional arrangements on the basis of the draft outline, under the auspices of the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee. It would reaffirm that any practice of 'ethnic cleansing' was "unlawful and unacceptable" and would not be permitted to affect the outcome of the negotiations on constitutional arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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The Council would condemne the refusal of all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina, "in particular the Bosnian Serb paramilitary forces" to comply with its previous resolutions and demanded that they and all other concerned parties fulfil their obligations under those resolutions. It also would demand that all forms of interference from outside Bosnia and Herzegovina, including infiltration into the country of irregular units and personnel "cease immediately".

By the resolution, the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina would be called upon to fulfil their commitments to put into effect an immediate cessation of hostilities and to negotiate in the Mixed Military Working Group to end the blockades of Sarajevo and other towns and to demilitarize them under international supervision.

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The United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) has expressed its "shock and dismay" at the revelations made today by Justice Goldstone, head of the Commission of Inquiry Regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation, about activities of the South African military intelligence.

It conveyed its full support for Justice Goldstone and his Commission, and backed his appeal to be granted the authority to urgently investigate the operations of such agencies as the army and police, Umkhonto we Sizwe (the armed wing of the African National Congress), the Azania People's Liberation Army, the KwaZulu police and certain private "security firms".

The UNOMSA, established by the Security Council in August, was authorized to address areas of concern relevant to the question of violence, and to strengthen and enhance the capacity of indigenous mechanisms seeking to end public violence and intimidation. The Goldstone Commission, one of the primary structures established by the National Peace Accord, is charged with exposing the background and causes of the violence.

The UNOMSA called on the South African authorities to take immediate and effective measures to enable to Commission to carry out its work and expressed itself ready to give any assistance the Commission might need.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has sent a message of hope and reassurance to the Somali people saying the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia "remains unchanged". However, the mandate could be translated into reality "only on the basis of understanding and mutual support between the United Nations and the Somali people".

The mandate put forward by the Security Council, the Secretary-General said, was to save lives, defeat the sceptres of famine and civil strife, and

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pave the way to political reconciliation. The United Nations was currently making an intensive effort to secure the consent of the Somali authorities concerned for the deployment of the United Nations security force, he said.

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At the new dawn of the post-Cold War era, the international community was looking to the United Nations in new and ever more complex ways, particularly with regard to conflict resolution, peace-keeping and peacemaking endeavours, Eugeniusz Wyzner, Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, told the Special Political Committee this morning, as it began consideration of questions relating to information.

The Department of Public Information (DPI), he continued, had confronted these challenges with a renewed sense of vigour, even enthusiasm. He stressed that DPI had been expanding the scope of its support to the Secretary-General in his interaction with the press, while undertaking a multi-media approach -- print, radio and television -- to promote and disseminate the goals and activities of the Organization.

As a prime example of DPI's public information campaigns for major events, the Under-Secretary-General cited the Department's efforts to promote and prepare the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, which yielded an "unparallel interest in and request for information about both the subject and the event itself."

The Under-Secretary-General also underscored the necessity of achieving equal working facilities and methods for the coverage of meetings in English and French, announcing that steps would be taken shortly to provide real parity in that area Secretariat-wide.

Referring to DPI's efforts to actively pursue the integration of certain information centres with UNDP field offices, Mr. Wyzner stated that the objective of the exercise was to strengthen the unified image of the United Nations system in the field, "without prejudice to the functional autonomy of the information component in the field office, and to enhance efficiency through the achievement of economies of scale". About a third of the UNIC's had already been integrated, he said, emphasizing that the experience gained over the initial one-year period would be studied and shared with other field offices which could benefit from closer coordination.

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Last week's cease-fire in Sarajevo, signed by the military commanders of the three parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, had been marred by isolated incidents that endangered the whole cease-fire agreement, the Spokesman for the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia said today.

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Briefing correspondents today in Geneva, Spokeman Fred Eckhard, said the situation in Sarajevo had improved considerably, permitting the evacuation of hundreds of people in recent days. He said agreement had also been reached on the opening of an additional corridor through the city for humanitarian supplies.

Military observers of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were now deployed at the airfield in north-west Bosnia, a move which the spokesman described as significant, because there had been evidence of possible violations of the Security Council's "no-fly" zone in that area, as well as other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The spokesman pointed out that initial data had been gathered by UNPROFOR, indicating that a number of unauthorized flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina had taken place. He said the military significance of those flights could not be satisfactorily determined without the technical data being supported by observations on the ground.

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Eduard Shevardnadze, President of Georgia, has informed the Secretary-General that so far no concrete steps have been taken to solve the conflict in his country, and that in fact the confrontation is "intensifying and the number of casualties grows daily".

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 11 November, Mr. Shevardnadze further said that his predictions regarding the possible broadening of the conflict zone in the Caucasus was coming true. Hostilities between North Ossetia and the Ingush had already begun, with no existing mechanisms in the region to settle the conflict. Should another Caucasus War occur, he said, it would "spell catastrophe not only for the Caucasus".

It was apparent, the letter said, that the Georgian side had strictly followed the principles and fulfilled the obligations outlined in the 3 September Agreement, "while the other sides have violated them constantly". Mr. Shevardnadze urged the Secretary-General to consider "new practical steps" in order to solve the conflict in Georgia.

A United Nations fact-finding mission visited Georgia from 13 to 16 October. Two of the members of that mission remain in Georgia to work for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, reports that progress has been made in implementing the adjusted timetable of the peace process in El Salvador. He writes that President Alfredo Cristiani has agreed to complete the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Commission on purification of the Armed Forces within a specified timeframe, allowing for the formal end of the armed conflict on 15 December.

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A certain adjustment was necessary for practical reasons regarding military personnel administration, he writes, and President Cristiani has agreed to inform him by 29 November of the decisions he has taken on the matter. Assuming that these decisions match those of the Ad-Hoc Commission, the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) is to provide the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) with a final inventory of its weapons and begin their destruction on 1 December.

"Contingent upon my confirmation that these actions have been duly completed, the Government would promptly resume the dissolution of military units as previously agreed", he writes.

The Secretary-General, on 23 October, proposed to the Government and the FMLN a set of adjustments to the timetable of the Peace Agreements according to which the cessation of the armed conflict would be completed on 15 December. He sent Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and Assistant Secretary-General Alvaro de Soto to discuss the proposal with the parties to the conflict. The FMLN accepted the proposal contingent upon agreement by the Government, but President Cristiani had reservations about the envisaged schedule.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali writes that with the peace process entering an especially delicate phase, it will be imperative that both parties act with caution and restraint, both until 15 December and for an extended period after that, "so that national reconciliation may become a reality".

* * *

The United Nations is currently owed some $576 million by Member States in total outstanding contributions to the regular budget, as of 31 October 1992, according to a new report dated 3 November. The United States and the Russian Federation -- the two major debtors to the budget -- owe some $295 million and $120 million, respectively.

The report on the status of contributions is published in accordance with a decision taken by the General Assembly in 1975 that the Secretary-General provide Member States, on a biannual basis, with information, for each Member State, on the amounts assessed, paid and owed to the regular budget and on continuing operations for which there is a special assessment.

* * *

According to a recent update from the Spokesman of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the most recent political party to register for the upcoming elections next spring is called the 'Liberal Reconciliation Party' -- the fourteenth political party to register provisionally for the Cambodian elections.

According to the press release, 20,315 international personnel are currently attached to UNTAC, the bulk of whom are members of the peace-keeping force. There are 15,738 men and women serving in the Military Component. The

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strength of the Civilian Police Component is 3,224. International staff attached to UNTAC's five other components, various divisions and administration number 927. There are 426 United Nations volunteers.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1271
17 November 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, opening exhibit of photographs of Somalia, says international community cannot regard unbearable suffering in that country as "someone else's problem".

+ Deployment of United Nations Observer Mission to verify referendum in Eritrea recommended by Third Committee.

+ Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Rigoberta Menchu, tells Third Committee of her efforts ten years ago to draw United Nations attention to human rights situation in Guatemala; today, she says, she can speak from the rostrum as the result of better understanding.

+ Progress in implementation of El Salvador peace agreements reported by Special Representative for that country at meeting today with Secretary-General.

+ States pledge total of $140 million for 1993 UNHCR Programmes; General Assembly President calls on States to fulfil humanitarian commitments and respond to need of 18 million refugees.

+ Nicaragua asks for inclusion of additional item on General Assembly agenda entitled "International Assistance for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters".

+ Cuba protests "Cuban Democracy Act of 1992" enforced by United States, saying it "constitutes gross and unprecedented violation of United Nations Charter and of international law".

+ Chairman of Special Committee against Apartheid calls on Governments ot to support exhibition of products of South Africa's arms industry, which begins today in Johannesburg.

* * *

Blaming the international community, as much as those who kill and loot, for the unbearable suffering in Somalia, Secretary-General Boutros

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Boutros-Ghali last night warned that the tragedy in that country could not be dismissed as "someone else's problem". Opening an exhibit of photographs entitled "Somalia's Cry", presented by Time-Warner, Inc. in cooperation with the United Nations, he called for action. Only the World Organization, with the support of all peoples and Governments, he said, could organize the reconstruction effort of such magnitude.

The Secretary-General outlined the efforts underway in Somalia and the problems that had been encountered. Lack of security had prevented substantial delivery of increased assistance, he said. This problem was compounded by the lack of central authority to negotiate the deployment of additional security guards throughout Somalia. With more security guards deployed in the capital and rural areas, the 100-day United Nations plan aimed at speeding up assistance to that country could be implemented to bring massive food aid, blankets, clothes, water and materials for shelter, he stressed.

The world could not afford to be indifferent or inward-looking, he said and Governments and the media could not afford to pick a favourite foreign crisis while ignoring others. "Suffering is indivisible. Every atrocity has the same moral weight," he added. "Our own lives would not escape the effects if we ignored that".

* * *

The General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to arrange the deployment of an observer mission in Eritrea to verify a national referendum scheduled to take place there in April 1993, under the terms of a draft resolution approved by the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) yesterday.

The mission -- the United Nations Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER) -- would monitor all activities related to the referendum, including registration of voters, organization of the poll, the campaign and the computation of results. It would consist of 21 international staff, increasing to 120 during the actual polling next year, and would cost an estimated $3 million.

The right of the Eritrean people to determine their future through an internationally-supervised referendum was recognized by all the relevant political parties at the Conference on Peace and Democracy, which assembled in Addis Ababa in July 1991.

* * *

The 1992 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Rigoberta Menchu, today told the Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) that she was proud, as a Quiche, a Guatemalan and a woman, to have stood up to repression in her region. She recalled the difficulty she experienced ten years ago when she came to the United Nations to ask the international community not to disregard the human rights situation in her country. Now she could speak from

(more)

the rostrum, as a result of better understanding and "a bit of magic" -- her receipt of the Nobel prize.

She said that although a great deal remained to be done, the legislative work of the United Nations on human rights must continue. Unfortunately, she added, the actual protection of human rights lagged behind the legislative norms. Legislation had not trickled down to the everyday life of millions of people.

Ms. Menchu, a 33-year-old indigenous rights activist who has lived in Mexico since 1981, said the United Nations gave more positive treatment to Governments than to people who suffered from their repressive policies. Speaking as a victim herself, she pointed out that that was "a matter of serious concern to those who were victims of human rights violations". Sometimes, she added, it was enough for the Government to adopt a law, which was rarely implemented, for it to be given the benefit of the doubt.

* * *

Iqbal Riza, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on El Salvador and Chief of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), reported today to the Secretary-General on the progress being accomplished in the implementation of the peace agreements and on the steps being taken by ONUSAL regarding enhanced monitoring arrangements in the coming weeks leading to the end of the cease-fire period.

The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation to Mr. Riza for his tireless efforts in overseeing the implementation of the agreements, and the way in which ONUSAL has carried out its tasks.

* * *

Pledges totalling more than $140 million were announced at Headquarters yesterday for the 1993 programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The President of the General Assembly, Stoyan Ganev of Bulgaria, told the Pledging Conference that the contributions would have a direct impact on UNHCR's operations in 1993 and on the 18 million people who depended on the Agency for protection and assistance.

While the past 12 months had seen a number of positive developments, particularly voluntary repatriations to Cambodia, South Africa and Viet Nam, the overwhelming trend had been one of mass flight, he said. In Africa, the tragedy in Somalia had caused almost 20 per cent of its population to flee into Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen. In Asia, 265,000 refugees from Myanmar had flooded into neighbouring Bangladesh. While UNHCR operations in northern Iraq were virtually over, the Office was now facing the consequences of the terrible conflict in the former Yugoslavia, with more than 2 million persons displaced or under siege, Mr. Ganev said.

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The pledges were announced at a meeting of the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNHCR. Representatives of several other Member States have promised to announce their 1993 contributions at a later date.

* * *

Nicaragua has asked for the inclusion of an additional item on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly entitled "International Assistance for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters".

The request was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Nicaraguan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Roberto Mayorga-Cortes, who in an explanatory memorandum, dated 12 November, recalled that President Violeta Barrios Chamoro had stressed during the general debate of the Assembly the urgent need for special and total cooperation from the United Nations in the economic and social reconstruction of her country. Accordingly, she had asked for "the support of the international community ... because the situation had become worse this year as a result of terrible natural disasters".
Document A/47/248

* * *

Cuba has protested what it calls "further aggressive measures" against it taken by the United States under the "Cuban Democracy Act of 1992", which it says "constitutes a gross and unprecedented violation of the United Nations Charter and of international law, as it seeks to subordinate the sovereignty of ... Cuba".

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 6 November, the Cuban Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Alcibiades Hidalgo Basulto, said the Act -- whose aim, he said, was to further tighten the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States on Cuba -- provided "full confirmation" for the positions long maintained by Cuba regarding the "illegal and immoral policy of blockade and isolation practised against Cuba by the United States for over three decades.
Document A/47/654

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The Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid has called on Governments not to support the exhibition of products of South Africa's arms industry, which begins today in Johannesburg, and has urged Governments representatives not to attend the exhibition.

In a statement yesterday, Committee Chairman Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria said the purpose of the arms trade fair was to promote the export of South African armaments. He recalled that the Security Council had repeatedly requested all States to refrain from importing arms, ammunition of all types and military vehicles produced in South Africa.

The exhibition - entitled Defence Exhibition of South Africa 1992 - is being held in Johannesburg from 17 to 21 November.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1272
18 November 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations should be involved in investigation of acts of violence by South African security forces, African National Congress tells Assembly as it continues apartheid debate.

+ After 12 days at sea, Somali refugees arrive in Aden, apparently with no casualties; in Geneva, actress Sophia Loren is appointed UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, with first priority the plight of 1 million Somali refugees.

+ Issues of human rights violations in Latvia and Estonia, and of assistance to Nicaragua to be added to the Assembly's agenda items, recommends General Committee.

+ Albania asks Secretary-General to put Macedonia under international observation to ensure rights of Albanian population in that country.

+ United Nations receives two new reports from United States and Bosnia and Herzegovina, respectively, on violations of humanitarian law in territory of former Yugoslavia.

+ Italy to convene donors conference on Mozambique in Rome on 15 and 16 December to solicit funds for electoral process and refugee programmes in that country.

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The United Nations should be involved in the investigation of South African security forces who took part in the violence in that country, the observer for the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) told the General Assembly this morning as it continued its debate on South Africa's apartheid policies.

He urged the Assembly to demand that the South African Government end the violence, take action against those forces and adopt the necessary measures to

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For information media—not an official record

ensure free political activity in all parts of the country. The Assembly should also decide what role the United Nations should play to ensure free and fair elections, he said.

A number of representatives maintained that political negotiations offered the only viable means for South Africa's peaceful transition to a system of non-racial democracy. They called for the early resumption of negotiations on the development of a constitution based on democratic principles, equality and mutual trust.

Yesterday, the Chairman of the Special Committee Against Apartheid told the Assembly that Member States should not "equivocate, show fatigue or prematurely declare that apartheid was dead". Opening the debate on the apartheid policies of the South African Government, Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria said that despite the cautious optimism evoked by developments last year, international actions against the evils of apartheid were as necessary as ever.

Most speakers agreed yesterday that sanctions should not be lifted until a democratically elected constituent assembly was in place and an agreed constitution had been drawn up. However, a draft resolution was introduced appealing to all States, institutions, organizations and individuals to offer greater financial and other assistance to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for South Africa.

* * *

Authorities in the Yemeni port of Aden today began disembarking Somali refugees from a ship that had carried them, with little food or water, on a gruelling 12-day voyage from the Somali port of Marka. Despite fears expressed earlier in the week about those on board, it appeared that no one had died at sea, and at least two women had given birth.

A team of doctors from Médecins Sans Frontières stood by to assist those in need of medical care, and relief workers distributed bread and bottles of water. The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who was in Aden to oversee the evacuation from the ship, said that despite the appalling conditions they had endured, the refugees seemed to be in good shape.

Meanwhile, the plight of the Somali population was the focus of a ceremony today in which the High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, appointed film star Sophia Loren a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador. Mrs. Ogata said that Ms. Loren had selected as her first UNHCR mission the "sad predicament of the 1 million Somalis who have fled war, drought and famine".

Ms. Loren, who on Saturday begins a six-day tour of the Kenyan and Somali refugee operations, said it was a photograph of starving Somali child which sharpened her determination to help. "I know it is a human, instinctive

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reaction to remove from us anything that can disturb our eyes, but ... we must feel disturbed, we must feel shaken and ask ourselves which way we can be involved and help."

Mrs. Ogata said that one in every 137 people in the world had been forced into flight. Out of a global population of 5.2 billion, more than 18 million were refugees and another 20 million had been displaced in their own countries.

* * *

The General Assembly has been asked to include two new items in its agenda for the current session: human rights violations in Latvia and Estonia; and international assistance for Nicaragua.

The request was made by the General Committee, which met this morning and decided to recommend that the item on human rights in Latvia and Estonia be allocated to the Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), while the item on Nicaragua should be taken up in plenary and considered on a priority basis because of its urgent character. The item on emergency international assistance for Afghanistan would be reallocated from the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) to the plenary.

The Assembly is expected to take action on the recommendations on Friday, 20 November.

* * *

Albania has asked Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to "use his influence that Macedonia be put under international observation" in order to avoid new bloodshed and to ensure the legitimate rights of the Albanian population in that country.

The request was contained in a letter of 16 November, to the Secretary-General, in which the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania, Alfred Serreqi, said the treatment of the Albanian population in Macedonia -- a former Yugoslav Republic -- was getting worse. He pointed to an incident last week in which four Albanians were killed, 30 wounded and more than 80 people arrested. Albanians were increasingly suspicious that the Macedonian side was not serious about its commitments to ensure the legitimate rights of the Albanian population in Macedonia, he said.
Document S/24814

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The United Nations has received two new reports from the United States and Bosnia and Herzegovina, respectively, on violations of humanitarian law in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

The United States' report - the third to be submitted on the subject - was accompanied by a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 5 November, in which that country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations,

Edward Perkins, said the focus, as in the previous reports, was on grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions. He noted that only substantiated information had been provided, namely eyewitness testimony or confirmed reports.

A similar report, entitled "Inside the Death Camps of Bosnia: the Savagery", written by Roy Gutman and published by New York Newsday, has been submitted by the Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey. In a letter, dated 9 November, Mr. Sacirbey said Mr. Gutman's report had been widely circulated and used as a source for subsequent reports by the international humanitarian organizations.

Both reports have been submitted to the five-member Commission of Experts on war crimes established by the Security Council last month.

* * *

Italy will convene a donors conference on Mozambique in Rome on 15 and 16 December to solicit funds for the electoral process in that country, emergency programmes and programmes for the integration of displaced persons and refugees.

In a letter of 12 November, conveying that information to the Secretary-General, the Italian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Vieri Traxler, said the Conference would be convened in support of the Peace Agreement signed in Rome this October by the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO).

The elections in Mozambique are scheduled for next October.
Document S/24813

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1273
19 November 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council unanimously asks Secretary-General to send Special Representative to Liberia; imposes arms embargo on Liberia except for weapons and military equipment used by peace-keeping forces of Economic Community of West African States.

+ Head of United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia vows that elections next May will not be impeded by remaining armed forces of four Cambodian factions.

+ In Angola, United Nations senior officials pursue efforts to ensure cease-fire and to assist the two parties in returning to negotiating table.

+ Assistant Secretary-General Richard Foran assumes coordination responsibilities for inter-agency humanitarian programme in Iraq; implementation of Plan of Action stepped up, following signing of Memorandum of Understanding.

+ In Second Committee debate on Chernobyl accident, several speakers criticize United Nations handling of the issue, calling for better implementation of programmes to mitigate its effects.

* * *

The Security Council, concerned at the intensified fighting in Liberia threatening to spread to other nations, this evening asked the Secretary-General to dispatch urgently a Special Representative to that country to evaluate the situation and to report his recommendations to the Council as soon as possible.

By its unanimous resolution, the Council also called on States, for the purposes of establishing peace and security in Liberia, to immediately implement a general and complete arms embargo to that country. The Council decided to exempt from the embargo weapons and military equipment used by the peace-keeping forces of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

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Condemning the violation of the cease-fire of 28 November 1990 and the continuing attacks against the ECOWAS peace-keeping forces in Liberia, the Council asked the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of its resolution as soon as possible.

The Council convened at the request of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Foreign Minister of Liberia.

* * *

The elections next May in Cambodia would not be impeded by the remaining armed forces of the four Cambodian factions, which the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had not been able to disarm and dismantle, head of UNTAC Yasushi Akashi vowed today.

Prompted by reports of a series of incidents over the last few days, Mr. Akashi issued a statement in Cambodia saying it was obvious that a free and fair election could not be held in circumstances of threats on people's lives, liberty and personnal security for attempting to exercise their political rights. He strongly reaffirmed UNTAC's "full commitment to the creation and maintenance of a neutral political environment, a sine qua non condition for holding free and fair elections". He strongly called upon the factions, in the meantime, to exercise strict control over their armed forces and take effective measures to stop all forms of intimidation, harrashment or killing of the civilian population. Mr. Akashi said he had already issued a call for maximum military restraint, and that he was confident that the Security Council would endorse that call.

In view of the recent incidents of politically-related violence, UNTAC would intensify its efforts to see that law and order was maintained effectively and impartially. In creating a neutral political environment, UNTAC would ensure the freedom of all Cambodians, with regard to freedom from intimidation, freedom of party affiliation, and freedom of action for political parties. Mr. Akashi said he would spare no effort to create and maintain the neutral political environment required for the holding of free and fair elections.

* * *

In Angola, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for that country, Margaret Anstee, and officials of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNVEM II) are vigorously pursuing efforts to ensure the cease-fire in all parts of the country and to assist the two parties in returning to the negotiating table.

According to a statement issued at Headquarters today, the situation in most parts of the country was calm although tense, with particularly difficult situations existing in some areas. UNAVEM military, police and civilian observers were everywhere promoting discussion and agreement between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

During a meeting today with President Dos Santos of Angola, Mss Anstee informed him that the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi, had accepted the results of the elections of 29 and 30 September. Mr. Savimbi had also set forth UNITA's views about greater involvement of the United Nations in the peace-keeping process in Angola, the statement said.

The future involvement of the United Nations, which the Angolan Government has agreed should be extended and amplified, must be the subject of a formal request, based on consensus between the two parties, so that the Secretary-General can make firm recommendations to the Security Council before the present mandate ends on 30 November.

* * *

Assistant Secretary-General Richard Foran has arrived in Baghdad to assume overall coordination responsibilities for the inter-agency humanitarian programme in Iraq. According to a report from the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), humanitarian relief has been stepped up since the signing three weeks ago of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations and agreement on a new Plan of Action.

The donor community, UNDRO reports, has responded positively to the financial requirements of the Plan of Action. Its implementation has also been facilitated by the issuance of new visas for United Nations and Non-Governmental organization personnel, as well as for 89 new United Nations guards, who arrived in Iraq on 11 November.

These staff have been deployed throughout northern Iraq to begin putting the Plan into practice. Orders have been placed for food supplies and kerosene and deliveries of initial commodities were expected to begin today. The Government of Iraq has advised that goods on trucks travelling to the north will be off-loaded before entering non-government controlled areas. The supplies will then be re-loaded onto trucks provided from the Kurdish areas, to continue the journey.

* * *

A number of countries this morning expressed dissatisfaction with the way the United Nations was dealing with the effects of the Chernobyl disaster. Addressing the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) on the issue, the representative of Belarus said the Organization's huge potential, its authority and experience in studying, mitigating and alleviating the consequences of the disaster had not been employed to the full. The coordination of activities at different levels both outside and within the Organization had to be strengthened.

The Russian Federation representative, depicting the accident as the worst result of scientific and technological progress, also faulted the results achieved so far by the United Nations. He called for the adoption by

the General Assembly of a resolution on Chernobyl, to enhance efforts to overcome the catastrophe and ensure that existing programmes were implemented.

The United Kingdom representative, speaking on behalf of the European Community, noted that the original United Nations plan to help deal with the aftermath of the disaster had been estimated to cost $646.5 million, but only $1 million had been pledged. That poor response had been a manifestation of the lack of coordination between the activities of the United Nations system and those of regional and other organizations such as the European Community.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1274
20 November 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Although Party of Democratic Kampuchea "has not found it possible so far" to cooperate in implementation of Paris Agreements, peace process for Cambodia must continue and timetable for May 1993 elections be maintained, Secretary-General says.

+ Formal meeting of Security Council on Iraq scheduled for Monday, 23 November; Belgium proposes that Special Rapporteur on Human Rights attend; Iraq says it will send high-level delegation to New York to attend Council's review of its compliance with resolution 687 (1991) later this month.

+ Secretary-General appoints Trevor Livingston Gordon-Somers of Jamaica as Special Representative for Liberia; expected to leave for region next week.

+ National Peace Secretariat of South Africa credits United Nations Observer Mission with contributing "significantly to peace"; 48-member, 30-nation team working with local and international groups combating violence.

+ Ambassador Chinmaya Gharekhan of India appointed as Special Representative to multilateral negotiations of Middle East peace talks.

+ Intensified action to protect ozone layer to be considered at ministerial meeting in Copenhagen organized by United Nations Environment Programme.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed regret that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) "has not found it possible so far" to cooperate in the implementation of the Paris Agreements, but says the implementation of the peace process in Cambodia must continue, and the timetable for the free and fair elections scheduled for May 1993 must be maintained.

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For information media--not an official record

In his report to the Security Council, dated 15 November, the Secretary-General said it would be necessary "to spell out" what the consequences would be "if PDK maintains its non-cooperation" with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)". The elections would take place, while a substantial part of the forces of the Cambodian parties remained under arms.

Given the continuing refusal of the PDK to disarm and demobilize, the Secretary-General proposed in his report that the present level of deployment of the UNTAC be maintained until the elections, with a view to "fostering a general sense of security among the Cambodian people". He would submit a report to the General Assembly on the financial implications of such an adjustment in the strength of UNTAC.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali expressed hope that the Security Council would adopt his proposals in order to facilitate UNTAC's mission and impress upon the parties concerned the firm determination of the international community to ensure peace, freedom and stability for the Cambodian people.
Document S/24800

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The Security Council will hold a formal meeting on the situation in Iraq on Monday, 23 November, pursuant to its decision in March to continue its discussion of the "repression in Iraq". The Council was holding consultations this afternoon on the matter.

Belgium has proposed that Max van der Stoel, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, be invited to attend Monday's meeting. Conveying the proposal in a letter to the Council, the Belgian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Paul Noterdaeme, indicated that the Special Rapporteur, in his most recent rapport, had given "a detailed description of the represssion" to which the Iraqi civilian population was being subjected.

In related news, Iraq will send an official high-level delegation to the United Nations Headquarters to take part in the Council's review at the end of this month of Iraq's compliance with resolution 687 (1991) which set the conditions for the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war.

In a letter to the Council President, Iraq's Foreign Minister, Mohamed Said Al-Sahaf, said his Government firmly believed that it had fully discharged the substantive obligations imposed by that resolution, and that it was "incumbent on the Council to begin to lift the embargo and all the exceptional measures imposed on Iraq". He wrote that Iraq would submit an updated factual report to the Security Council which would give a full account of the measures and steps taken by Iraq to provide full disclosure of its weapons programmes.

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The last time Iraqi sent a high-level delegation to New York was March 1992, when officials led by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz attended a meeting of the Security Council to discuss Iraq's obligations under resolution 687.

In other news, the representative of Iraq told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today that the Iraqi population was suffering gravely as a result of economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council on their country. He wondered whether the denial of Iraq's requests for medical supplies and the materials necessary to rebuild its industry was not an attempt at genocide against an entire population.
Document S/ 24828, S/24822

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Trevor Livingston Gordon-Somers of Jamaica as his Special Representative for Liberia, as of today. He is expected to leave for the region next week.

The appointment follows the adoption yesterday by the Security Council of a resolution that requests the Secretary-General to dispatch urgently a special representative to Liberia to evaluate the situation there, and to report to the Council as soon as possible with any recommendations he might wish to make.

Mr. Gordon-Somers, who is 54, is currently Director of the Office of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York. He joined UNDP in 1965, and has served in Cairo and Lusaka, and as Resident Representative in Guyana and Barbados. He also served as Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Regional Bureau for Africa until 1989.

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The National Peace Secretariat (NPS) of South Africa has credited the United Nations Observer Mission in the country (UNOMSA) with contributing "significantly to peace". The 48-member, 30-nation team has been deployed to all regions of South Africa, working in close coordination with the NPS and observers from the European Community and the Commonwealth, as well as local political groups, Government departments, business organizations and dispute resolution groups.

A large part of the UNOMSA team's work has been observation of marches, demonstrations and rallies, to ascertain whether the codes of conduct set for political parties and for security and police forces are being adhered to. According to a press release from UNOMSA, the observers have noted that a major cause of heightened tension and rising levels of violence in South Africa are the deteriorating socio-economic conditions and high unemployment. The UNOMSA Chief, Angela King, has proposed the creation of a joint European Community/UNOMSA task force on socio-economic reconstruction and development.

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Her team has also attended meetings of the regional and local dispute committees (RLDC), and underlined the need to better publicize the work of the peace structures.

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The Secretary-General announced today the appointment of Chinmaya Gharekhan, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, as his Special Representative to the multilateral negotiations of the Middle East peace talks. Mr. Gharekhan will coordinate the role of the United Nations in the working groups on Arms Control and Regional Security, Water, Environment, Economic and Regional Development and Refugees.

Since becoming his country's United Nations ambassador in 1986, Mr. Gharekhan has headed various bodies, including the Security Council (October 1991), the Economic and Social Council (1990) and the Commission on Transnational Corporations (1987), as well as participating in numerous international conferences.

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A ministerial-level meeting of the European Community and the 87 countries that have ratified the Montreal ozone protection treaty begins in Copenhagen on Monday, 23 November, to consider speeding up action to protect the ozone layer. Organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and nosted by the Government of Denmark, it is the Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP, said in a press release issued at Headquarters that at the top of the agenda would be a proposal to accelerate the phase-out of ozone-depleting CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) by the end of 1995, instead of by the year 2000, the current target. A 75 per cent reduction would be achieved by 1994. "The targets set by the Montreal Protocol in 1987 and by the London amendment in 1990 strike us as far too leisurely a pace", he said.

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